AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the title with the following amended title:

PROCESS FOR OPERATION OF A BURNER WITH CONTROLLED AXIAL CENTRAL AIR MASS FLOW

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] This application is related and claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 to German Patent Application No. 100 50 248.2, filed October 11, 2000, the entire contents of which are incorporated by reference herein. In addition, this application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/973,868 filed on October 11, 2001, now abandoned, the entire contents of which are incorporated by reference herein.

Please replace paragraph [0051] with the following amended paragraph:

It is known from U.S. Patent No. 5,735,687 (which is in the patent family including EP 0 780 629), which document is incorporated into the present application by reference in its entirety, to arrange a mixing pipe downstream of the swirl generator of a burner. The embodiment of the invention with such a burner is shown by way of example in Fig. 8. A mixing section 200 is arranged downstream of a conical swirl generator 100, whose structure and function is not discussed in further detail here. The swirl generator is secured to a holder ring 210. A transition element 220 is furthermore arranged in the holder ring 210, and is provided with plural transition channels 221 which transfer the swirl flow 144 generated in the swirl

generator 100 from the inflowing combustion air into the mixing section without a sudden change of cross section. The mixing pipe 230 proper is arranged downstream of the transition element. A further homogenization of the combustion air and fuel, if necessary, takes place in the mixing pipe.